

# Profile in Mission

## MINISTRY

Community Development

## LOCATION

Niger

## PARTNERS

Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger,  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



**AÏCHATOU AND TOM JOHNSON  
ELISABETH, LAUREY AND MARIE-FLORENCE**

## **What Need Is God Showing Us?**

The Evangelical Church of the Republic of Niger (EERN) is a young church in one of the world's poorest countries. Many church members are first- and second-generation believers and know very little about practical Christianity and organizing outreach and ministry. They need leadership and organizational development to help their church institutions grow strong enough to carry out their assigned ministries and to enable them to respond to new opportunities and challenges. In many cases, there is also a huge need for infrastructure and basic equipment to accomplish fundamental ministry tasks.



*Tibiri Primary School treasurer Yakubu Labo stands before a diesel-powered, water-cooled grinding mill that was purchased with funds from RCA volunteers*

## **What Is God Telling Us to Do?**

God is calling us to invest in the people and the institutions of our Nigerien partner, the EERN. This includes everything from training and education to supplying equipment and technology to helping build and create the infrastructure that will support these desired ministries. The people of the RCA are called to strengthen the capacity of the EERN to carry out various types of ministry through the equipping of its pastors, evangelists, and members in leadership and administration, community development and health education and training, and income-generating skills.

## **How Are We Doing What God Is Asking?**

RCA missionary Tom Johnson is putting his international development experience to work in both consulting and participatory roles. He trains Nigerien Christians for specific responsibilities and advises them on how to find and develop the human, financial, and spiritual resources to accomplish the God-given goals and objectives of the

EERN. Tom also works with the EERN's Dogon Gao Bible School, helping to coordinate building and income-generating projects.

## **Who Is Our Partner?**

The EERN operates two Bible schools, a literacy school, two primary schools (with others being planned), a computer-training institute, an outreach library/reading room and a bookstore. The denomination also maintains departments of health, education, and development, and a media department, which is partnering with Words of Hope ([www.woh.org](http://www.woh.org)) in producing Hausa- and French-language radio broadcasts on Niger's state, private, and community FM stations.

## **Up Close and Personal**

Tom's life experiences came together to uniquely prepare him for ministry in Niger. "I really feel that God has been equipping me for a very specific task, since he gave me an interest in West Africa, rural areas, community development, adult education, and Reformed theology," he says. Tom grew up on an Iowa farm and holds degrees in international agriculture, public service and administration, and resource development. Tom is married to Aïchatou, who was born and raised in Niger. She has medical training, but is now busy with the couple's children: Marie-Florence (born in 2004), Laurey Léa (born in 2005) and Elisabeth Gabrielle (born in 2008).

